AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a Class of Service (CoS) scheme, wherein the CoS scheme comprises

one CoS Template entry; and

a CoS Definition entry,

wherein the CoS definition entry contains an attribute whose value points to the CoS template entry[[.]]; and

determining a scope of the COS definition entry by a position of the COS definition entry in the directory server.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the CoS Definition entry contains an attribute whose value points to the CoS template entry using the distinguishing Name (DN) of the CoS Template Entry.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CoS definition entry contains a list of attribute types, the values for which may be provided by the CoS scheme in said CoS Template entry.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an attribute-value pair stored in a directory system and shared by a plurality of target entries in the directory system, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a pointer CoS scheme;

receiving a request for an attribute-value pair associated with a first target entry;

searching in a list of attribute-value pairs which are associated with template entries that are in turn associated with CoS Definition entries for instances of attribute-value pairs that match the requested attribute type, said searching step resulting in a matched list of attribute-value pairs;

applying at least one of a set of constraints to the matched list of attribute-value pairs; and

returning the attribute-value pair that satisfied the applied constraint(s)[[.]],

wherein the set of constraints comprises CoS scope, wherein the COS scope is determined by a position of the COS definition entry in the directory server.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

a component to configure and store a plurality of target entries; ~~and~~

a component to create a CoS scheme, wherein the CoS scheme comprises

a CoS Definition entry; and

one CoS template entry, wherein the CoS definition entry contains an attribute whose value points to the CoS template entry[[.]]; and

a component configured to determine a scope of the COS definition entry by a position of the COS definition entry in the directory server.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the CoS definition entry contains a list of attribute types, the values for which may be provided by the CoS scheme in said one or more CoS template entries.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

a component configured to store a plurality of target entries;

a component adapted to configure an attribute-value pair that could be shared by at least a subset of the plurality of target entries using a Pointer CoS scheme;

a component configured to receive a request for an attribute-value pair associated with a first target entry;

a component configured to search in a list of attribute-value pairs which are associated with template entries that are in turn associated with CoS Definition entries for instances of attribute-value pairs that match the requested attribute type, said searching step resulting in a matched list of attribute-value pairs;

a component configured to apply at least one of a set of constraints to the matched list of attribute-value pairs to result in a selected attribute-value pair; and

a component configured to return the selected attribute-value pair[[.]],

wherein the set of constraints comprises CoS scope, wherein the COS scope is determined by a position of the COS definition entry in the directory server.

9. (Canceled)